

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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FM AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5653

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

USDOC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RIO DE JANEIRO 5814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTIO, BR

SUBJECT: CAPRE CONTINUES TO STRUGGLE WITH DIFFICULT MINI-
COMPUTER DECISION

REF: A. RIO 4354 B, RIO 4208

1. CONGEN E/C OFFICER CALLED ON IVAN DA COSTA MARQUES,
COORDINATOR OF THE TECHNICAL STAFF FOR COORDENACAO DOS
ATIVIDADES DE PROCESSAMENTO ELETRONICO (CAPRE) TO
DISCUSS UPCOMING GOB DECISIONON MINICOMPUTER MANU-
FACTURE HERE. (CAPRE IS GOB AGENCY WHICH IS EVALUATING
THE 15 MINICOMPUTER MANUFACTUREING PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE
BEEN SUBMITTED.) MARQUES IS NOT A MEMBER OF CAPRE'S
BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE DOES, HOWEVER, ATTEND ALL BOARD
MEETINGS CONCERNED WITH THE MINICOMPUTER DECISION BECAUSE
OF HIS TECHNICAL EXPERTISE (HE HAS A PHD IN COMPUTER
SCIENCE FROM UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELY). THE
TECHNICAL EVALUATION OF THE MANUFACTUREING PROPOSALS WAS
DONE UNDER HIS DIRECT SUPERVISION.

2. WHEN ASKED WHEN A DECISION ON THE MANUFACTURING PROPO-
SALS COULD BE EXPECTED, MARQUES STATED THAT HE HAD THOUGHT
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THE DECISION SHOULD HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING SEVERAL WEEKS AGO
WHEN THE TECHNICAL EVALUATIONS WERE COMPLETED. HE SAID THAT
THE DECISION IS PROVING TO BE A DIFFICULT ONE. HE INDICATED
THAT THE RECENT PRESS REPORTS (JORNAL DO BRASIL, DECEMBER 14)
PREDICTING YET ANOTHER BOARD MEETING ON THIS MATTER BEFORE
THE END OF THE YEAR WERE PROBABLY OPTIMISTIC. HE CITED THE
UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON AS LIKELY CAUSE OF A DELAY UNTIL

AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. WHEN PRESSED ON TIMING OF DECISION, MARQUES SAID FROM TECHNICAL STANDPOINT DECISION COULD HAVE BEEN MADE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HE WAS UNWILLING TO SPECULATE ON POSSIBLE DATE OR TO OFFER ANY EXPLANATION FOR THE DELAY.

3. COMMENT: MARQUES CLEARLY IMPLIED THAT CAPRE'S INDECISION IS BASED ON NON-TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS. IN ADDITION, HIS REPEATED STATEMENTS THAT THE DECISION COULD HAVE BEEN MADE SEVERAL WEEKS AGO ON THE BASIS OF THE TECHNICAL EVALUATIONS MADE BY HIM AND HIS STAFF FURTHER IMPLIED THAT, ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS, THE WINNERS ARE APPARENT. CAPRE'S BOARD IS DEAD-LOCKED BUT IT APPARENTLY IS NOT READY TO KICK THE DECISION UPSTAIRS TO THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THE BIDDERS, HOWEVER, ARE EXERTING GREAT PRESSURE FOR AN EARLY DECISION ONCAPRE AND THE GOB, AND ONE CAN BE EXPECTED EARLY NEXT YEAR.
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